53. Vaccination in schools.—Vaccination increased considerably, 76% of the total number of scholars having been returned as vaccinated, as against 65% in 1082. 90% of the scholars in Sirkar schools have been returned as vaccinated.

54. The teaching staff.—The total number of teachers increased from 6,933 to 7,144, *i. e.*, by 3%; the percentage of trained teachers among them also increased from 17 to 20 per cent, owing to the addition of several trained hands to the staff of the schools. Sirkar schools maintained the lead in claiming the largest percentage of trained teachers. The majority of untrained teachers are reported to possess general educational qualifications or to have been recognised as teachers. The really unqualified teachers are said to be few and to be mostly working in private unaided schools.

55. Working of the Grant-in-aid Code.—94 schools were newly aided during the year and the grants of 80 schools were enhanced. No new or additional maintenance grant was however given to any English school. A building grant amounting to Rs. 6,446 was given to the Holy Angels' Convent Girls' English High School, Trivandrum, and another of Rs. 1,297 to the Mulagumud Technical School. A special grant of Rs. 5,000 was given to each of the Second Grade Colleges at Kottayam and Nagercoil. The total amount spent as grant-in-aid was Rs. 1,84,051.

56. Receipts and expenditure.—The total income and expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,67,646 and Rs. 7,30,530, as against Rs. 1,45,717 and Rs. 7,11,181 respectively in 1082. The net expenditure on education incurred by the Sirkar was Rs. 5,62,884. The distribution of the net expenditure under Collegiate, Secondary, Primary and Special education was in the ratio of 12, 40, 37 and 11.

Devaswoms and Oottupuras.

57.—During the year, the expenditure on account of Devaswoms or religious institutions was Rs. 9,65,113 and that on account of Oottupuras or charitable institutions was Rs. 6,32,684. The total expenditure on both together was Rs. 15,97,797. The expenditure on these institutions during the six years ending with 1083 is given below :—

Years.	Expenditure.		Total.
	Devaswoms. Rs.	Oottupuras. Rs.	Rs.
1078	6,54,100	4,16,946	10,71,046
1079	6,49,665	4,06,641	10,56,306
1080	6,49,068	4,42,514	10,91,582
1081	7,16,047	4,09,975	11,26,022
1082	9,01,779	5,10,522	14,12,301
1083	9,65,113	6,32,684	15,97,797

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The expenditure on Devaswoms has increased from Rs. 6,54,100 to Rs. 9,65,113, or by 47 per cent, and that on Oottupuras from Rs. 4,16,946 to Rs. 6,32,684, or by 52 per cent, during the last six years. The increase has been most marked from the year 1082. In that year, the change of system on account of the abolition of taxation in kind came into operation. The Devaswoms and Oottupuras till then were supplied with paddy, from the tax collected in kind by the Sirkar, and at rates much below the market rates. In 1082 paddy began to be supplied on contract. As has been explained in my address last year, the increase in the charges has not been on account of any addition to the number of, or the scale of expenditure in, these institutions, but almost wholly to the increase in the value of the paddy, rice and other provisions, which have all to be now supplied on the contract system. The figures for 1083 probably represent the high-water-mark of the increased expenditure consequent upon the abolition of taxation in kind.

58.—I stated in my address last year that the whole question of these institutions was under investigation by a Special Officer. Mr. Justice Ramachandra Row, the Special Officer, has submitted his report. It is full and exhaustive and supplies valuable information. On receipt of the report, a Conference of the Division Peishkars (under whose administrative control these institutions are working) was held and their opinions were obtained and recorded on the several recommendations made by Mr. Ramachandra Row. The report is now engaging the consideration of His Highness' Government. It has not been considered advisable to publish the report at this stage. I may however state that His Highness' Government fully realise the importance of the whole question and that they will not fail to effect retrenchment so far as it may be practicable. The Oottupuras at Ottakkal, Anchal, Punalore, and Elamannur, having been reported to be needless, have already been abolished. The expenditure of the Ariankavu Oottu has been reduced from Rs. 2,876 to Rs. 714 per annum. The question of abolishing a few more Oottus is under correspondence. The scale of expenditure of all the religious institutions, as well as of such of the charitable institutions as His Highness' Government may elect to retain, will be carefully considered and fixed. I must however at once say that an immediate and wholesale abolition of *all* the Oottupuras in the State, such as has been proposed in some quarters, cannot be thought of. Several of them are reported to be endowed institutions, and in regard to several others, the unanimous consensus of opinion among all the officers consulted (including Mr. Ramachandra Row) is that retrenchment is possible but that complete abolition is not feasible. In view to the retrenchments already made and further contemplated, the budget allotments for the year 1084 have been fixed as shown below:—

	Actuals of 1083.	Budget of 1084.
	Rs.	Rs.
Devaswoms ...	9,65,113	9,50,000
Oottus ...	6,32,684	5,00,000

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